

THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF
BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 49th Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education decision, which declared segregation of public schools illegal. The case was sparked by Linda Brown, a black girl denied admission into a white elementary public school in Topeka, Kansas. The NAACP took up her case, along with similar ones in Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia, and Delaware. All five cases were argued together in December, 1952 by Thurgood Marshall.

I am proud to stand here today in honor of one of our country's pioneers in the history of civil rights. Before serving 24 years as the first African-American on the United States Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall served as legal director of the NAACP. Marshall was once asked for a definition of "equal" by Justice Frankfurter. He responded, "Equal means getting the same thing, at the same time, at the same place."

As a tribute to Thurgood Marshall and his lifelong plight, the Congressional Black Caucus, Microsoft and the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund recently announced the creation of the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Technology Initiative. This initiative will support technology, training for students at public Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

I am grateful to have contributed to the legacy of such a great American. As immediate past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am pleased that the seed planted under my administration has now blossomed into a fruitful initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank all of my colleagues for being here today to commemorate this important event, so fundamental to our societal growth. I am here today because I believe that education must be our number one national priority. In my almost thirty years as a legislator, I have fought to ensure that education is at the forefront of the legislative agenda.

The President has promised to "leave no child behind," unfortunately, the current administration is not getting the message. The President's budget falls \$9.7 billion dollars short of the funding commitment made in No Child Left Behind to K-12 education and \$5.3 billion dollars short of level provided in the Senate Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2004. How can we ask educators to meet high standards at the same time we hand them a budget that forces class size increases, cuts in academic programs, and teacher layoffs. Demanding more but paying less does not work.

In fact, President Bush proposes a second year of historically low federal investments in educations, with an increase of only 5.6 percent. This is contrast to the average increase of 13 percent over the past seven years. That doesn't even keep pace with inflation. The President's budget also cuts targeted funding for assistance for school dropouts and higher education programs.

Other programs barely survive the budget chopping block—resources for teacher train-

ing, educational technology, after-school programs, and safe and drug-free schools are frozen; while for the second year in a row he allocates no money for school modernization.

It is time we say, "Enough is enough!" We cannot afford to loose one more brilliant Black mind because the opportunity for a quality education was not available to him or her. Financial constraints should not hinder our youth from exploring knowledge and expanding their minds. We must make sure that the people we vote into office do not ignore our desire to educate our youth by selecting judicial nominees that rob us of equal access to education, just as it was robbed from us before Brown v. Board of Education. And we must educate the populace on legislation that threatens to take away our hardearned rights, rights that we should have never had to fight for in the first place, rights to receive equal and quality access and opportunity to education.

Education is not a luxury item that can be trimmed when more enticing budget items beckon. It is an essential element that should be our highest national priority. Now is the time to increase education spending.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by asking my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending my appreciation to the legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall, the Brown family, and all of the unsung heroes who worked so tirelessly for equality and justice in America's public institutions of learning.

HONORING MYRON BLUMENFELD

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 35th Anniversary of Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington and its Chairman, Myron Blumenfeld, for his strong leadership, dedication and commitment in making Port Washington a more beautiful town.

In 1968, Myron and a group of concerned citizens founded Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington with the simple plan to plant a tree by a gas station. Soon, the people of Port Washington began to organize daily for environmental action and Myron's organization slowly grew from a handful of members to a prestigious and influential non-profit action group. Today, Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington boasts more than 2,000 active members who cross political, racial, religious, ethnic and economic divides to preserve and enhance the environment of Port Washington and the surrounding communities.

Among the major projects the group has spearheaded are: protecting drinking water, building waterfront trails, contributing thousands of dollars to the Port Washington Board of Education to fund projects which helps students to learn about our ecosystem, planning the Main Street Park and Town Dock, and of course, planting hundreds of trees throughout Port Washington.

As the founder and chairman of Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington, Myron Blumenfeld has consistently displayed his lifelong passion and spirit to improve our environment and our quality of life. A graduate of Syracuse University with a Masters Degree in

Business from New York University, Myron was vice president of Bloomingdales for 34 years where he routinely answered his phone with "Save Hempstead Harbor". Myron's commitment to the environment was quickly recognized by then Governor Cuomo who appointed Myron as Chairman of the Long Island Parks Commission. As Chairman, Myron initiated the first Long Island Parks environmental education program. Myron also served as Chair of the Sierra Club's Atlantic Chapter and formed the Sierra Club's first Long Island Chapter. In addition, Myron served on the boards of the Environmental Planning Lobby and American Friends of Neot Kedumin. In November of 2002, Myron and the Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington received the well deserved Environmental Advocates of New York State Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such an exceptional individual and commend Myron Blumenfeld for his dedication to preserving and working for the beautification of Port Washington. On May 18, 2003, Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington will recognize Myron's important contributions at its 35th Annual Gala. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in wishing Myron Blumenfeld and the Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington many more years of success as they celebrate their 35th Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF G-8
RESOLUTION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution calling on the President to encourage members of the G-8 and representatives of the European Union to pledge and contribute a substantial amount of money to the fight against global AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, in order to complement the recent commitment of the United States to spend \$15 billion in the next five years.

The resolution clearly lays out the history of the G-8's involvement in the global HIV/AIDS fight, beginning in 1987 at the summit meeting in Venice, where the G-8 first recognized AIDS as one of the biggest potential health problems in the world. It was at this meeting that member states first agreed to expand international cooperation and intensify national efforts to educate the public and prevent AIDS from spreading even further.

Today, 15 years later, HIV/AIDS has become an even greater threat to humanity than we would have ever envisioned back in 1987. AIDS has already devastated the continent of Africa, where over 30 million people are currently living with AIDS, and where hundreds of millions more are still in danger of getting infected. And now AIDS is poised to wreak havoc in India and China, as each country's large population has the potential to mask rising trends of infection and understate the true reach of the pandemic.

As the leading killer of HIV/AIDS infected individuals, tuberculosis is on the rise, and in virtually every country surveyed by the World Health Organization, drug resistant strains of tuberculosis have already been found. Malaria